

Chagos Archipelago - Great Chagos Bank West (BITB29)

North Brother · surveyed 2015-03-18



Coral Health Index: TBD

What was done. Coral cover here was measured on in-situ benthic transects run by divers on the [Living Oceans Foundation Global Reef Expedition](#) — a diver measurement, not an estimate read off photographs.

HARD CORAL COVER

30%

Benthic surveys

TODAY'S HEAT LOAD

28.9°C

0.0°C-weeks

16 Sep 2026 · -0.1°C vs the annual mean (29.0 °C)
· NOAA No heat stress

HEAT STRESS (5-YR MEAN ANNUAL MAX. DHW)

4.4°C-weeks

NOAA annual peaks averaging 4–8 °C-weeks

MAX. DEPTH

30.4 m

dive-log maximum

WATER TEMP. (SURVEY)

29.5°C

+0.6°C vs the 2015 mean sea temperature (28.9°C)

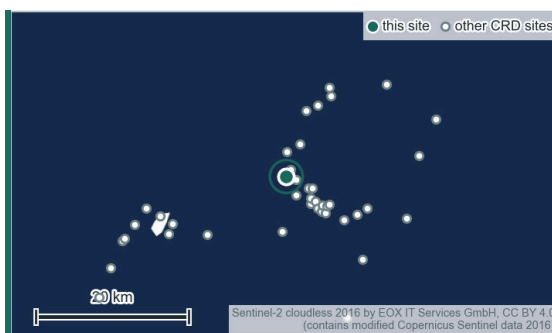
PHOTOGRAPHS

51

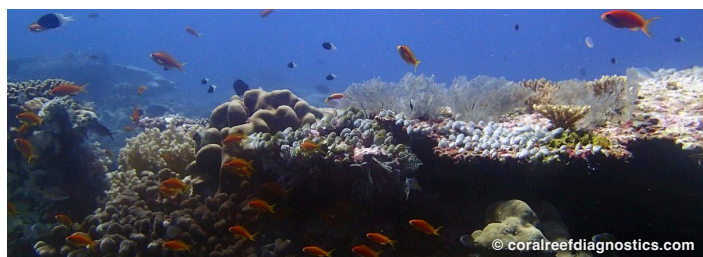
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POSITION

-6.1346, 71.4980



A mixed Great Chagos Bank reef where huge, healthy *Acropora* tables up to three meters across and dense patches of small corals alternate with low-relief rubble and old dead tables crusted in pink algae. A whitetip reef shark and barred groupers were seen, with no crown-of-thorns or disease. Surveyed on the [Living Oceans Foundation's Global Reef Expedition](#).



CV model comparison (hard-coral cover, %): Transect (published) 30.2 · [CoralNet](#) 29.6 · In-house DINOv3 23.7 · CoralSCOP edited 25.9 · Claude 18.5

Photographs: Anderson Mayfield/Coral Reef Diagnostics — 3 of 51 on file; watermarked · Full site record: <https://api.coralreefdiagnostics.com/site-pages/gre-chagos-archipelago-gcb-west-bitb29.html> · Heat stress is the mean of the latest five annual maxima of NOAA Coral Reef Watch degree-heating weeks for this reef's NOAA CRW virtual station (Chagos) — a five-year heat history for the station's waters, not a measurement at this site on the dive date.